

Remarks/Arguments:

Applicants' disclosure is directed to a support structure for a loudspeaker diaphragm. As shown in FIG. 2, for example, the support structure relevantly includes a supporting section 12 attached to a voice coil body 2, a suspension holder 6 having an inner circumferential portion disposed on a top surface of the supporting section 12, and a diaphragm 3 supported by the supporting section 12. The suspension holder 6 is coupled (e.g., via an adhesive agent 16) to the voice coil body 2.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Funahashi et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0185415) and Onuma et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2005/0111690) and as obvious over Onuma and Sugiura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,010,141). It is respectfully submitted, however, that claim 1 is patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth below.

Onuma discloses a speaker. As shown in FIG. 2, the speaker includes a voice coil bobbin 11, a connecting member 12 protruding from the voice coil bobbin 11, a first damper part 9a which is attached to the connecting member 12 via an adhesive 19, and a first diaphragm 10 which is disposed on the first damper part 9a and connected to the connecting member 12 via the adhesive 19. See Onuma at paragraphs 22 and 23.

Funahashi discloses a loudspeaker. As shown in FIG. 4, the loudspeaker includes a voice coil body 15, a diaphragm 17 attached to the voice coil body 15 and to a frame 19 via a first edge 18, and a suspension holder 22 attached to the voice coil body 15 and to the frame 19 via a second edge 21. See Funahashi at paragraph 50.

Sugiura discloses a speaker device. As shown in FIG. 5, the device relevantly includes a damper 27 attached to a frame 20 via a damper holder 30. Projections 30, which are disposed on the frame 20 or the damper holder 30, couple the frame 20 to the damper holder 30. See Sugiura col. 3, lines 19-24.

Applicants' invention, as recited by claim 1, includes a feature which is neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record, namely:

...a supporting section attached to the voice coil body...

...the suspension holder has an inner circumferential portion which is disposed on a top surface of the supporting section....

This feature is found in the originally filed application at page 5, lines 7-12 and 18-19. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner argues that Onuma discloses a supporting section on which an inner circumferential end of a suspension holder and an inner circumferential end of a diaphragm is glued. In particular, the Examiner equates Onuma's connecting member 12 with the supporting section and Onuma's damper 9 with the suspension holder. See Office Action at page 4, lines 9-16. Assuming *arguendo* that Onuma's damper 9 is a suspension holder, damper 9 does not have a portion which is "disposed on a top surface of" connecting member 12. See, e.g., Onuma FIG. 2. Accordingly, Onuma does not disclose "the suspension holder has an inner circumferential portion which is disposed on a top surface of the supporting section..." as required by Applicants' claim 1.

Funahashi and Sugiura fail to make up for the deficiencies of Onuma. In fact, the Examiner admits that Funahashi does not disclose a supporting section. See, e.g., Office Action at paragraph 10, lines 9-11.

Further, the Examiner argues that Sugiura discloses a suspension holder connected to a frame via a second edge. The Examiner equates Sugiura's damper holder 30 with Applicants' second edge. However, a damper holder is very different from an "edge" as the term "edge" would be understood by one of ordinary skill in the art. Accordingly, Sugiura does not disclose "a suspension holder whose outer circumferential end is connected to the frame via a second edge," as required by claim 1.

It is because Applicants include the feature of "the suspension holder has an inner circumferential portion which is disposed on a top surface of the supporting section," that the following advantages are achieved. Namely, "a stressed caused by an aligning operation influencing onto the deflection status of first edge 4 and second edge 7, can be improved for reduction of harmonic distortion with a loudspeaker." See, e.g., Applicants' specification at page 4, line 22 through page 5, line 3.

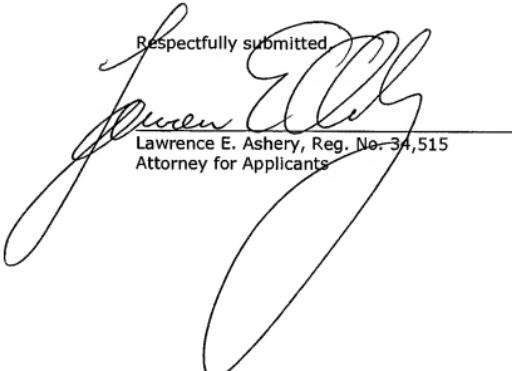
Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, claim 1 is patentable over the art of record.

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In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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